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May 2024

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Dear Reader

We're now stepping into my least favourite time of the year. Before you harangue me, pick your chin up off the floor and hear me out. I just hate being hot. Being hot means being sweaty and that's not a good look on anyone, especially me. Added to that, I carry my own personal insulation in the form of long, thick hair which, despite being scrunched into something resembling a bun, still makes me feel hotter than the surface of Mars.

Some time ago, I was fortunate enough to visit my brother-in-law and his wife who were then living in Singapore. If you've ever been you'll know that Singapore, being so close to the equator, doesn't have seasons and every day is pretty much the same as yesterday and will be the same again tomorrow; hot and humid. That predictability negates the need for asking the most British of questions – 'What's the weather like?' – and the level of humidity creates



regular thunderstorms. I noticed most locals always carry an umbrella which delivers shade as well as shielding them from the rain. Sensible.

There's something reassuring about that predictability; in some ways it makes life easier. I suppose our seasons here in the UK are becoming less predictable as we see the effects of climate change and perhaps one day, in the depths of winter, I'll be hankering after a bit of summer sun. In the meantime, I'll simply be grateful for the reassuring predictability of the goodness and kindness of people and the reliability of Highworth's LINK Magazine coming through the door! Enjoy this month's read full of events to attend, encouraging news, and things to anticipate. Keep cool!

Rachael

Front Cover image: Keith Davidson Photography



WHITE HORSE FOLK CLUB
PRESENTS

an evening WITH
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(The Voice of Pentangle)

AND
KEVIN DEMPSEY

United Reformed Church
Highworth

18th May
8:00pm

Tickets £15
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terry.custance@sky.com - Or www.wegotickets.co.uk

Highworth Methodist Church Looking for Angels

Highworth Methodist Church is planning several events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of worshipping at its current site in Vicarage Lane. One of the events to be held in the church during the weekend of 14 and 15 December is an Angel Festival.

Angels from individual crafters are very welcome. Please get in touch if you'd like more details. We ask that any angels made are kept safe. Angels will be collected by their makers on the Monday following the festival. Look out for further details in the Highworth LINK Magazine later in the year with information of when they can be brought to the church for displaying.

Angel Festival Group, Highworth Methodist Church
E: churchaf60@email.com

Life to the Full

None of us should be excluded from society just because we don't have enough money.

Yet the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's January 2024 research revealed that the UK's poverty rate means 14.4 million of us are trying to survive on an income that doesn't cover even the basic needs we have in life. 4.2 million of these are children. Freedom, dignity, hope and life are being stolen from people every day.

But this is not God's design, not His plan. We live in a broken world where pain, injustice and suffering abound – with each other and within ourselves.

When Jesus came to earth to show us God and to give us a way for deep, lasting peace with Him, He said, 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they might have life and have it to the full!' (The Bible, John chapter 10 verse 10)

God's desire for us is not that we might merely survive;



He wants us to thrive. As Christians, that's the transformation we chase after. A person having 'just enough' to live on or a parent unable to clothe or bathe their children doesn't satisfy our hunger for justice.

For Christians Against Poverty (CAP) this means we roll up our sleeves to serve our communities with services that free people from poverty's grip, equip them to

confidently manage their money and give them the skills to pass on to the next generation.

For us, this means we speak up to those in power to instigate change that results in a fairer, more just society. It means we personally pray for our nations and raise awareness in our churches, workplaces and communities of the harm being caused by UK poverty. We set our sights higher than 'just enough', and instead reach for 'life to the full'.

*Kathryn Ford, Christians Against Poverty
See page 15 for more information about CAP*

Highworth Climate Talks

Can renewable energy power the UK? The race is on. Gas and oil companies across the world are gearing up to expand their fossil fuel production just as scientists warn that the Paris target of 1.5C is slipping away.

But if renewables can be built at speed, we can bring back hope of reducing the worst impacts of global warming. Chris Church is on a mission to stem the tide.

Chris, whose background is with Oxford Friends of the Earth and Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust, will present the facts behind the formidable task of switching the UK's power from dirty fossil fuels to clean renewables.

There are many challenges to the big switch. How do we tackle the impacts of solar and wind farms on nature and food production? Will it be too costly? Can we produce the extra electricity needed to power cars and heat our homes?

Chris will give his talk on **Wednesday 15 May** at Highworth Methodist Church, Vicarage Lane SN6 7AD.

Highworth Flower Club

On Thursday 2 May, 7:30pm at Warneford School, Denise Bright will be coming to talk about 'A Few of My Favourite Things'.

We hope you will join us in the school hall. Doors open at 7pm, with plenty of space for parking in the school car park. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £5.

And why not join us for our Flower Festival from **19 to 22 September** at St. Michael's Church Highworth?

Exciting ideas for 'The Wonder of Words' are coming together for a very special event to celebrate the diamond anniversary of the Highworth Flower Club. The church will be filled with flowers depicting book titles and poetry, from Alice in Wonderland to William Shakespeare! Look out for more details in further issues of Highworth's LINK Magazine.

*Michele
T: 07798 817249
W: www.highworthflowerclub.co.uk*

News from Big Highworth Community Foundation

BHCF has recently launched two new initiatives: the Community Charity Fund, and Community Awards.

The Community Charity Fund will offer help and support to local charitable activities, registered charities in and around Highworth, and those supporting local people. The Fund will be open annually and will invite applications from those in the above categories seeking financial support in line with our governing document. We hope the Highworth community will support our fundraising events – look out for our advertising posters. We can't do it without you!

Community Awards will be held annually, and this year we are inviting nominations for Volunteer of the Year, Citizen of the Year and Charity of the Year. Volunteer nominations closed on 26 April, but nominations for Citizen of the Year are currently open until 31 May and the window for Charity nominations is 3 to 28 June. Details of how to nominate can be found on our Facebook page. The awards will be judged by a panel independent of BHCF.

We are looking for volunteers to help with our fundraising activities and to staff our stalls on an as-and-when basis. We are also seeking three new trustees



Chris Kent, trustee, and Alison Cross-Jones at their Easter fundraiser

to help run our charity. These will share, with the current trustees, legal responsibility for decision-making and governing BHCF. If you are interested in either role please contact us by emailing us at BHCF2023@outlook.com.

Alison Cross-Jones, Chair of Trustees

New Life for UTRNTA

All of a sudden our National Trust Association has come alive. Members who disappeared when Covid started have returned and our committee room is full. Perhaps spring will give it a try?

On 9 May we will set off for a visit to Owlpen Manor near Uley which, in turn, is westwards beyond Stroud. My laptop tells me that it was there before William the Conqueror so it's worth visiting.

I must mention a talk by Sjoerd Vogt (yes, I have spelt it correctly) in February, who persuaded us of a link between Faringdon Folly and Tolkien's tales. I almost believed him.

If you're interested and would like to go on any of our outings or attend our talks, please contact Stella Tidmarsh on 01793 782584.

Phil Eagle

*Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association
W: www.utrnata.co.uk*

Lechlade History Society

On Monday 13 May, 7pm for a 7:30pm start, speaker Sue Smith will present 'The Friends' Ambulance Unit in the World Wars' in the Memorial Hall, Lechlade.

The Friends' Ambulance Unit (FAU) was a volunteer ambulance service set up to provide an alternative service to fighting. It was founded by the Quakers in line with their Peace Testimony during the First World War, when universal conscription first became compulsory. It operated during both wars and beyond in many countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

It took some years to be accepted but, by the end of WW2, Quakers had been awarded the Nobel Peace prize for their non-partisan work providing humanitarian aid.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ros Godden

Ten-Year Celebrations for Dandelion Financial

The team at Highworth-based Dandelion Financial are marking their first decade in business.

Andy Carter and Sarah Watch have created a business with the community at heart. They have supported local organisations, including sponsorship of the U17's and U18's football at Coleshill United, Great Western Ambulance Charity and, for the fifth year running, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in Highworth. CAP is a national debt counselling charity offering free debt and counselling advice.

Andy explained, "We feel that our continued support of CAP aligns with our financial ethos – that financial advice is for everybody. We love being based in the centre of Highworth and are looking forward to our next decade and beyond."

Located in High Street offices, Dandelion Financial was founded in 2014 by independent financial advisors Andy Carter and Sarah Watch, with the aim of 'sowing the seeds of financial advice' with their many clients.

Bringing together more than 60 years' combined experience, Andy and Sarah have built a business which prides itself on providing an objective, professional and efficient service, delivered with a personal touch.



Sarah and Andy

"We are proud of our achievements in the last ten years," said Sarah. "We consider that the key is in creating a trusting relationship with our clients, so that we can provide financial advice that is altogether individual."

As well as celebrating ten years in business in 2024, Andy and Sarah will also be celebrating their second wedding anniversary. The couple married in 2022 after a very long engagement!

Dandelion Financial

T: 01793 765153

W: www.dandelionfinancial.co.uk

So Much More Than Sunday

St. Andrew's Church Shrivvenham is holding a 'fresher's fayre' type event – 'So Much More Than Sunday' – to showcase the wide range of events and activities that happen in the Church: From choir to coffee mornings, flowers to festivals, messy church to mother and toddler, Ask to Alpha, and so, so much more.

Join us on **Saturday 11 May**, 2pm to 5pm, in St. Andrew's Church, Shrivvenham SN6 8AQ.

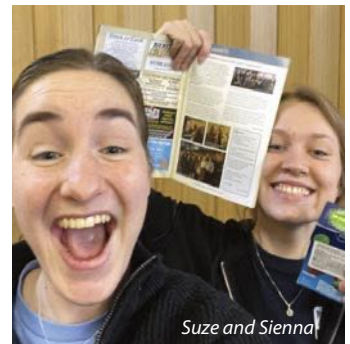
Do come along and visit. There will be refreshments and also guided history walks and talks around the church and churchyard to explore and discover more about this interesting and historic building.

For more information please email us at shrivenham.ashbury.benefice@outlook.com

LINK Magazine Goes Global!

Last month we were delighted to report on a visit to Highworth by a team of international young people. They were from a number of different countries but all connected through the Youth With A Mission base in Norway.

We sent them a copy of March's magazine and they were delighted to see themselves – as you can tell! Suze and Sienna, team leaders, exclaimed, "It (LINK Magazine) caused quite a commotion here!"



Suze and Sienna

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Replacing furniture/white goods/furnishings on a like-for-like basis

Maintenance expenses and costs for decorating – including gas safety certificates;

Advertising for a tenant and obtaining/drafting a tenancy contract;

Buildings/ contents insurance, Council tax, water rates, service charges etc. if the landlord incurs these;

Travel costs to a rental property for inspections/repairs but note that there are implications for non UK residents.

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The Sky's the Limit for Community Shed

Highworth Community Shed member Chris Kent will be doing a tandem sky dive on Wednesday 3 July to raise up to £1,000 for the Community Shed.

Chris is asking everyone who knows him, or those who support the Shed and its aims, to go to his GoFundMe page and donate at <https://gofund.me/fe7f84ff>. Any donations will be gratefully received.

Shed Chair, Sue Dobbs, commented, "The Shed receives a lot of support from residents in Highworth and the surrounding villages and I hope that those who are able to give will support Chris with a donation. Every bit really does count."

Chris explained, "I will be doing it to raise money for Highworth Community Shed; a worthy cause dedicated to promoting mental health awareness, to combat isolation and loneliness by bringing people together under a common interest in a 'Shed' environment. Please sponsor me and donate to this fantastic cause!"

What happens in a Shed? All sorts of workshop activities and, amongst others, the Highworth Community Shed has run courses on how to make various items, attended by men and women in a community spirit.

Contact us by searching 'Highworth Community Shed' on Facebook to find out more.

South Marston Gardening Club

On Monday 13 May, Antony Powell will be joining us to talk about 'Scent in the Garden'.

We will meet from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, with a £5 visitor entry fee on the door or you can join the Gardening Club for £15 (annual membership). Refreshments are included, along with an optional raffle. A warm welcome awaits you.

This year's plant sale will take place on **Monday 10 June**, 7:30pm to 8:30pm, with plants for your house, garden, and allotment, all at reasonable prices. We'll have annuals, fruit plants, hanging baskets, herbs, house plants, perennials,

shrubs, tubs of flowers, and vegetable plants. Pop along and have a chat with Gardening Club members for advice on growing and much more.

Refreshments and homemade cakes will also be available. This is a cash only event.

Both events will be held at South Marston Village Hall, where parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane next to the school.

Angela Newton

T: 07789 068340 • Facebook: @southmarstongardeningclub

Big Help Out for 1st Highworth Scouts

Highworth Scouts are looking for volunteers to support our group.

On **Saturday 8 June** we will be opening our doors and trying to get a number of jobs done inside and outside the scout hut. We will be sending out more details on the Highworth Scouts website and Facebook page nearer the time, but we really do need your help and look forward to seeing you there.

We are always looking for people to help out with scouting in Highworth. This may be as part of the leader team supporting one of the beaver, cub or scout sections, becoming a trustee, or any number of other roles that help support the group.

Please get in touch through the Highworth Scout website if you are interested.

David Roblin

W: www.highworthscouts.org.uk/contact

Busy Times for Visit Highworth

This May we will be holding a Paint and Prosecco evening with artist Christine Purdy.

You can try watercolour painting for the first time or improve the skills you already have whilst enjoying a glass of prosecco. We will also be holding a quiz evening at Highworth Community Centre. Everyone is welcome! If you don't have a team come along on the evening and we will find some like-minded quizzers for you to join with.

For more details about these events, please contact the Visit Highworth Centre (01793 764440), or pop in to see us at 7 High St.

We are delighted to announce we will be holding an art festival in June in Highworth. There will be an art exhibition, workshops and demonstrations. More details to follow.

And don't forget the craft centre is open, showcasing local artists and makers. You'll find handmade and unique pieces to suit all budgets and tastes – something for everyone!

Helen Lacey, Centre Manager

E: info@visithighworth.co.uk

W: www.visithighworth.co.uk



Support Christian Aid Week

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference. Every Christian Aid Week people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act, and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal is from **12 to 18 May** and is focusing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods, and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: More than 70% of the population live in poverty, and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA (Village Savings and Loans Association) which supports some twenty-five families in a remote village in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay. Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading

avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. This is a plan, and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever."

This Christian Aid Week supporters are once more stepping up; knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives. Please respond if you get one of our envelopes through your door or donate at <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/Highworth>



Small Local School with Big Aspirations



Maranatha Christian School in Sevenhampton is delighted to share the results of their recent ISI inspection and are proud to announce that they have met all the Independent Schools Standards. As an Independent School they are inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) rather than by Ofsted. Meeting all of the standards as a school reflects an incredible amount of hard work from all of the teachers, students, volunteers, trustees and parents.

The report noted the strong Christian ethos at Maranatha Christian School saying, "The school's Christian ethos is evident in pupils' growing spiritual development and commitment to serve their school and the wider community. They are prepared for life

after they leave school."

If you are looking for early years childcare, there are currently government-funded spaces for three and four year olds in the Little Lambs Early Years setting. ISI stated, "In the early years adults model kind and considerate behaviour and children learn to co-operate with each other and to treat others with respect."

Maranatha Christian School is for children between the ages of five and seventeen and has an Open Day on **18 May**. If you would like to attend the open day or enquire about the main school, early years funded places, or visit at a convenient time, please email me (details below).

See our website to read the full inspection report.

Justine Gardner, Business Manager
E: justine.gardner@maranathaschool.org
W: www.maranathaschool.org



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Carers, Science and Books, at Southfield Junior School

At Southfield Junior School our Young Carers are invited to meet each week. We eat lunch together, play games, make crafts, and catch up on the week. They all enjoy the chance to meet other Young Carers and see they are not alone.

Recently, the children entered a Swindon Carers Centre competition where they had to design a poster about being a Carer and say which superpower they would have to help them in their caring role. The Carers included: being a mind reader; teleportation; healing powers and super support.

Our posters were all so good that one winner couldn't be chosen! The Swindon Carers awarded the whole group an Amazon voucher to share and spend on fun activities for their group. The children chose lots of new games to play together in their club.

Miss Chamberlain, Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader



These are two of the posters we created

World Book Day

Southfield celebrated World Book Day this year with the theme 'Windows and Mirrors: Celebrating a world of differences through picture books.'

"Books, like mirrors, help reflect what we observe and know about the world we live in. It's powerful to read or listen to a story about someone like you. Books also allow us to view and understand lives that are different from our own, like a window into other experiences." (<https://reachoutandread.org/>)

Each year group took a picture book that gave them an insight into other children's lives or reflected their



British Science Week

This year's British Science Week theme was 'Time'. All classes at Southfield had an additional special science lesson on Time during the week and discussed what the concept meant to them. They then carried out time investigations.

Years 3 and 4 were challenged to time their brains! They worked with a partner to measure their reaction time and then practised to see if they could improve it. The children then discussed why one hand had a faster reaction time to the other – why could this be?

Years 5 and 6 created water clocks; they added intervals to measure one minute of time, tested their water clock, and compared the different scales on all the clocks in the class. Lots of discussion and debate ensued about the observed differences and possible reasons for them.

Great work Southfield scientists!

Jenn White, Teacher

own lives. Throughout the day the children completed activities inspired by their class book. It has been a pleasure looking through the children's artwork and poetry, and I am now busy working on a display to showcase their wonderful creations!

It was fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm for the day through both their character or word costumes and their excited talk about their favourite books. It was a lovely reading and book-filled day and we are already looking forward to celebrating next year!

*Kimberly O'Sullivan
Head of School*

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Interested in becoming a Trustee?

Root & Branch is an independent charity located near Highworth, providing therapeutic activities that promote recovery for people who experience mental health difficulties.

We are keen to hear from anyone who has a couple of flexible hours a week to help out and can attend one monthly meeting.

We would be very interested if you have a medical background... but please do get in touch whatever your skill set.

To find out more contact us on:

T: 01793 782999 E: office@rootandbranch.org.uk
www.rootandbranch.info



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Easter Eggs Donation to Local Families in Need

A civil engineering firm donated over 100 chocolate eggs to make sure Highworth families struggling financially had a treat this Easter.

Free debt advice and money coaching charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) were grateful to receive over 100 Easter Eggs from employees of CPC Civil & Thames Water who have been working in Highworth.

The civil engineering company wanted to give something back to the community where they have been working by supporting families who are struggling with the cost of living.

CAP have been working with households in Highworth and the surrounding area for nearly ten years and have helped over 300 of these either find a route out of debt, improve their lifestyle through our CAP Life Skills courses, or gain tools for job seeking through our CAP Job Clubs. CAP has also recently relaunched its money coaching course to empower people to be in control of their own budget.

Nigel Bachelor (CPC Site Manager), Lisa Brindley (CPC Stakeholder Manager) and Jonathan Wickens (Thames



Water Senior Project Manager) personally made the drive down to Highworth to present the Easter Eggs to Claire Titcombe (Highworth CAP centre manager).

Claire said, "We are really grateful for this kind gesture from CPC Civil & Thames Water. With all the rising costs, many people on low incomes in Highworth are finding things really challenging right now. We are helping local families and individuals out of debt and to improve their financial situations. With this donation it's wonderful that we can give them a little morale boost and bring them some joy this Easter."

Claire is encouraging those who are struggling financially to seek free help by contacting her at clairetitcombe@capuk.org or calling 0800 328 0006 free of charge.

Lechlade Annual Vintage Rally and Country Show

From 4 to 6 May we will be holding the Tenth Annual Vintage Rally and Country Show at Langley Farm, Langley Lane, Clanfield OX18 2RZ. The event will commence at 10am each day.

Attractions include: *classic cars - classic motorcycles - commercial vehicles - collections - miniature steam - tractors - model tent - classic caravans - fun fair - bouncy*

castle - animal sanctuary - bees and much more.

Mini Ring events:

Saturday: Fun Dogs Show and Britannia Majorettes.

Sunday: Food Fairies for Street Dogs and Cats 'Fun Dogs Show'.

Monday: Food Fairies for Street Dogs and Cats 'Fun Dogs Show' and Highworth Silver Band.

- boot sales - trade stands - craft marquee - refreshments - raffle and tombola all days.

Free car parking and public camping is available for £17 per night (includes free entry to the Rally). Pre-booking is essential and available from our website.

£6 for adults. £4 concessions. Under-16's can enter free with a paying adult.

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Highworth Open Gardens



Highworth will once again be opening its gardens on Sunday 9 June, 11am to 4pm – make sure you have the date in your diaries.

Refreshments will be available in three of the gardens and a map with all the details and entry stickers will be on sale towards the end of May (Adults entry £5, and children can enter for free with an adult) from either Visit Highworth or Weigh It Up – this will cover admission to all the gardens.

We are, of course, hoping for good weather so you can enjoy your wander around Highworth and relax with some tea and cake, chatting to friends in pleasant surroundings!



It's not too late to volunteer your garden so please get in touch if you are interested.

All profits raised will go to Highworth in Bloom, a community organisation which, through volunteers, provides and maintains floral planters around the town. Sadly we have recently experienced some anti-social behaviour (damage to plants and troughs) so please keep an eye on these planters so they can continue to make our town an attractive place to be.

We look forward to welcoming lots of you to our gardens on **9 June**.

Ken and Sue Hooper
E: ken.hooper@btinternet.com



Rocktopus at Westrop Primary School

Rocktopus returned to Westrop Primary School for the third time in three years to rock out and complete workshops with KS2. Each year group created their own PE dance routine to the rocking songs they made up with the help of the band. The moves and music were recorded and turned into an awesome video that only the children can access to share with their parents.

Claire Kruse



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----- If you would like to know more about us or arrange a visit please contact us -----

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Telephone: 01793 762897 **Email:** nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk **Website:** www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk

Thinking Local, Thinking Samaritans

SAMARITANS

As the seasons change, your local Samaritans branch is asking you to donate pre-loved items to their shop in Swindon's Curtis Street rather than using Vinted or Depop.

Donating locally is a great way of supporting your local Samaritans branch as well as recycling your great quality clothes and bric-a-brac, ensuring many more happy memories are created by our customers when they buy something you've loved and donated!

Happily, you can also increase the value of your donations through gift aid at no cost to you if you are a UK taxpayer. Please ask us for a form.

Swindon & District Samaritans need to raise all our own running costs and all the money we raise is spent locally by providing our free listening service for anyone who needs a safe place to talk, as well as throughout our community raising awareness and recruiting volunteers. Check out our website to find out more.

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We're here every hour of every day of the year for anyone who needs someone to listen to them, whatever they're going through. Your help can make all the difference.

Maggie Gill, Listener

T: 01793 526430

E: swindon@samaritans.org

W: www.samaritans.org/branches/swindon

Why Should We Learn a Second Language?

Did you know learning a new language is good for your brain? It gives the brain 'muscles' a workout and makes it grow stronger which, in turn, boosts concentration and coordination. If you learn a language it deepens the understanding of how all languages work.

If someone asks you, 'Why should I learn a new language?' the answer is easy. It will make you a better learner and open your eyes to the world that you live in. It may open doors to your future and make travelling to different countries more fun.

At Southfield Junior School we are learning French. The children have weekly fun and interactive lessons that will be the building blocks to their learning at secondary school. We are also very lucky in Year 6 to have a French teacher, Ms. Sayers from Warneford School, who volunteers to come in to take the lessons.

So, no matter your age, try learning a different language. You may enjoy it – your brain most certainly will!

Ruth Law, Teacher

Swindon / Avebury / Bourton

T: 01793 329898

M: 07737 505243

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Learn, Laugh, and Live With Swindon u3a

Spring is here and there's no better time to try something new. Perhaps there's an activity you've always wanted to do or an old hobby you'd like to renew. If so, the u3a could be just what you're looking for.

The u3a is for people no longer in full-time employment. It's a national organisation but is particularly active in Swindon and the surrounding area. There are more than 1,600 members here and it's growing, with around 300 people joining in the last year.

You can choose from over 130 interest and activity groups. These cover arts and crafts, history, music, science and technology, languages and literature, natural history, activity groups (including walking and dancing), travel, board and card games, and coffee mornings and pub lunches. More are created each year. In addition, there are monthly meetings with speakers and annual events, such as summer and Christmas parties.

The u3a is run by volunteers and financed entirely by members' subscriptions. The annual membership fee is £10 which entitles you to join as many groups as you like. There is a termly fee for each group, which depends on the venue, number of sessions and people attending, and the fees are shown on the website. The groups meet all around Swindon and the surrounding district, typically in community centres and during the daytime.

You can see everything on offer and much more about the u3a by visiting www.swindonu3a.org.uk, or you can pop into our office in the Gorse Hill Community Centre for a chat with our friendly volunteers. You can also call the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, or email office@swindonu3a.org.uk. There is also a u3a Facebook page.

A world of new experiences awaits you at Swindon u3a, so why not join us for the opportunity to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun?

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Faringdon Peace Group

You are invited to Faringdon Peace Group's public meeting entitled 'Building a Fairer World Where Everyone Has What They Need', on **Saturday 11 May, 2pm.**

The doors will open at 1:30pm at the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

We have invited speakers to present their ideas and views and we are delighted to have with us:

- Tracy Walsh, Chairperson
- Molly Scott Cato, former Green MEP, speaking on 'No justice, no peace?'
- Mohinder Kainth, from the Faringdon and District Rotary Club
- Ashley Smith, speaking on 'Witney Against Sewage Pollution'
- Symon Hill, from the Peace Pledge Union

Do join us for an interesting and enlightening afternoon. Free refreshments will be available. For more information, please see our website.

www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

Memorial Concert to Celebrate Christine Williams

On Friday 14 June, a memorial concert will be held to celebrate the musical life of Christine Ann Williams who sadly died on 16 January 2024, aged 73, after a short illness. The concert will be held at St. Michael's Church Highworth, starting at 7pm.

Along with the four choirs Chris was accompanying at the time she passed away, will be her son Anthony, playing double bass, and his wife Rosie Burton, will be playing bassoon.

The choirs singing are The Wessex, Highworth Choral Society, Shrivenham Ladies Choir and Parkies singers.

The concert will raise funds via a retiring collection for brain tumour cancer research.

Entry tickets for the concert will be available from the various choirs and Visit Highworth.



Come to Root and Branch's Plant and Craft Fair

Root and Branch extend an invitation to join us for our Plant Sale and Craft Fair on the 11 May.

The sale will boast a stunning assortment of plants, lovingly tended by the skilled hands of Root and Branch's participants, whilst the craft fair will offer many wonders, all crafted with care. Whether you're in search of a unique gift or wishing to purchase for yourself, there's bound to be something to suit everyone – including tea and cake!

Root and Branch offers invaluable support and resources for individuals navigating the complexities of mental health difficulties. A diverse variety of activities and workshops is offered such as art, woodwork, gardening, basket weaving, adult literacy and healthy hearts.

Conversations with both our participants and staff at Root and Branch show we provide a welcoming and safe environment where individuals can be their authentic selves. Participants have said they find courage to rediscover the confidence to push through

life's challenges and 'get back on the bike.' Root and Branch stands as a beacon of hope in a sometimes dark world; many feel that places like this are rare to find, '...like an oasis in the desert.' These sincere words highlight the special place that Root and Branch holds in the hearts of all who pass through its doors.

Tanya Parkinson, manager, stated, "I feel privileged to work alongside staff, volunteers and trustees, each contributing so much to ensure that we are able to offer a safe, therapeutic space for participants on their journey towards improved emotional wellbeing and recovery. As a charity, three quarters of the income we need to stay open is gained through fundraising and we feel very thankful for the tremendous support from our local community. We look forward to seeing you on the 11 May!"

Root and Branch, Westmill Farm, SN6 8TH
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E: office@rootandbranch.org.uk
Article by Jennie Mercer

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We Have a Winner!

In last month's issue we reported on the enthusiastic meeting we held to discuss the community radio programme to be launched on Swindon 105.5FM. Community leaders representing voluntary groups which serve Highworth heard about the initiative and pledged their support for this new venture.

Warneford School were one of those groups keen to be involved and there we introduced a competition to design a logo for the Highworth radio programme, a



logo to be used on all advertising for the programme.

We're pleased to announce that Constance Davenport is our competition winner. Her unique and colourful representation of the town in logo form will be digitised and reproduced in print and on websites. Congratulations Constance, and well done to all of you who entered the

competition. We have some very talented young people!

Head of Warneford School to Step Down

In early March, Andy Steele of Highworth Warneford School informed all parents and carers of students that he will be stepping down from his role as Head on 31 August this year.



His heartfelt letter paid tribute to the support he has received from parents, carers and the wider community during his time in post.

Mr. Steele has led the school since September 2017, building a strong Leadership Team and Body of Staff, and his involvement with students has been inspiring, personally mentoring many of the students, including Jamie Donnelly who tragically passed away earlier this year.

Andy has not made this decision lightly, referencing the recent loss of his wife.

"As some of you may recall, I lost my wife not too long ago and that does give a slightly different perspective on life. I have no particular plans yet and am excited about what the future might hold."

Mr. Steele reassured readers of his letter that he will be fully committed as Head until his departure in August and that he will be working with TPAT (The Park Academies Trust) to ensure the transition of the school to a new Headship is smooth.

Highworth Historical Society Talks

Our talk on 22 May is on Littlecote Roman Villa and the speaker will be Dr. Hugh Pihlens.

The villa site at Littlecote is extensive with a beautiful mosaic and there is also an associated religious complex. Come to hear more about this interesting place.

As always, visitors are welcome to attend our talks with a payment of £3 cash at the door.

We meet at St. Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road SN6 7HF. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

Chris Suter
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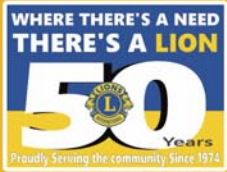
WHERE THERE'S A NEED

This month 50 years ago, on 29th May 1974, the Highworth and District Lions was formed. Those founding 21 members paved the way for the successful local organisation we have today.

The local community and varieties of groups, large and small, that have been helped in some small way, either by donation or 'boots on the ground' at events, are too many to list here from the last two generations.

None of this would have been possible without the good people, or Lions, of Highworth and its outlying villages, who have given their time, enthusiasm and dedication to make this all happen for the Highworth community and further afield.

The Lions would also like to see more of you so the district can continue for years to come serving the community. No experience required, and we're happy to mentor you to be a fully active participant and enjoy the many community activities we host or participate in.



Call or drop us a line on

E: secretaryhighworthlions@lions105sc.org

E: highworth@lions105sc.org

www.highworthlions.org.uk



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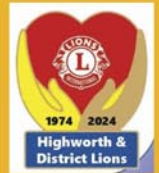


Did you know...

- Highworth and District Lions have donated £273,813 to local causes and international disasters in the last 10 years (2013-2023)
- The Lions minibus is used as a community bus. Local charities use it to transport elderly people to and from their homes to do shopping and to attend their lunch clubs.
- Our charity shop opened over 30 years ago selling affordable items to our community. It is a very popular shop for amazing bargains.
- All money raised by our fundraising and sales from our charity shop goes towards good causes and people in need.

Just a few of the donations to local and other causes include:

- Ladies Lions and Junior football teams
- Highworth Christians against Poverty (CAP)
- Root and Branch
- Blunsdon Community Shop
- Highworth Community Larder
- Penny Hooks Farm
- Forget-me-not Café
- Highworth Bumps to Babies
- The Mayor's Charity – Prospect Hospice
- Defibrillators at Aldi and the Council offices
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance
- Wiltshire Disabled Games



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National Trust is bursting into life!

Spring! The start of things happening on your National Trust doorstep. The blossom is blooming and birds are in full song.

Helping to make Coleshill look lovely has been a group of students from Crowdy's Hill School, Swindon, volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. They cleared the community orchard, giving it a good tidy and making it a welcome place to enjoy. One student helped in the bookshop and developed a talent for book-related crafts to create beautiful displays. They all worked hard, and it has been a pleasure to help them achieve their awards.

Open Days have begun and an addition for this year are group walks through the parkland. Led by volunteer walk leaders, these gentle, relaxed walks will give you a chance to experience the nature around Coleshill. After the success of farm tours at last year's open days, there are now additional bookable farm



tours on Thursdays and Saturdays. See the website for details.

If you have enjoyed a Highworth town tour in the past, why not sign up for a guided tour of neighbouring Faringdon. A group of National Trust volunteers is supporting the town to share the town's fascinating history that includes a unique geology, Civil

War, and tales of the eccentric Lord Berners. Funds will go back into Faringdon community projects. The tours will be on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30am. Pre-book on the Buscot & Coleshill Estate webpage.

For the artist, Chastleton House, near Stow, has quiet, monthly sessions called 'Inspired by Chastleton'; a chance to take your art materials or cameras to enjoy the stunning gardens to inspire your own art practice. Pre-book on the Chastleton House webpage.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sarah Hanniss

E: buscotandcoleshill@nationaltrust.org.uk

News from Highworth & District Lions Club

We are very excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary this month. As a club and charity, we have accomplished so much and helped countless people, both locally and internationally, in the last 50 years.

From 2013 to 2023, we donated £273,813 towards our community, disaster appeals, the elderly, disabled people, and local hospices. We work very hard to raise money at all our fundraising events as well as from sales in our charity shop, and every penny donated goes to good causes and people in need.



All of our members and shop volunteers play a vital part in helping the club and our charity shop run smoothly day in, day out. I'd like to take this

opportunity to thank each and every one of our members and shop volunteers for all of their hard work and commitment – without you we would not be here to carry on serving our community proudly.

On behalf of the Lions, I would also like to thank our supporters from the last 50 years. Whether you've donated at a fundraiser, bought from our charity shop, or you're a local business that has donated amazing prizes to us, we are very grateful for your continued support so that we can carry on serving our community.

Here's to another successful 50 years and more of being Lions!

Local causes we have donated to recently are:

Root & Branch: £1,000
Highworth CAP: £440, to support two local families in need with a bed, mattress and fridge freezer

Please contact me if you would like more information on joining us.

Melanie Davenport

E: secretaryhighworthlions@gmail.com

New Members for Artists' Society

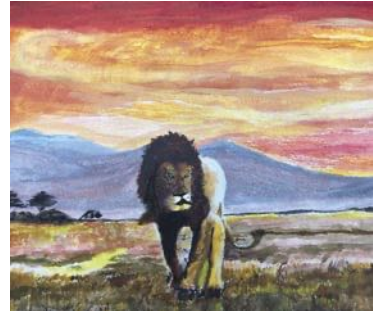
We are always really pleased to welcome new members to our group, and it is great to see new styles and media being explored.

Two of our newer members, Graham Hall and Keith Farmer, are pictured here with their artworks. Both are



enjoying the regular time to meet and paint alongside others, whilst also enjoying the chance to socialise. They said the group has given them the confidence to try subjects they

previously would have not attempted. This works both ways – we love seeing the work of all new members evolve and skills improve!



If you are interested and would like to join us at our Tuesday sessions, please contact us via email at highworthartistsociety@gmail.com, and we will be delighted to give you details!

The Arts Society Upper Thames

On Thursday 9 May at 2pm we would be pleased to welcome you as a visitor to our lecture entitled 'Gold of the Gods: Treasures of South America and the search for El Dorado', with our lecturer Chloe Sayer.

Gold in South America had a spiritual importance. Its brilliance evoked the Sun – the golden disk that nourished the Earth. In Peru and Colombia, goldsmiths made some of the most spectacular treasures of the ancient world. Cast and hammered, gold was transformed into sacred offerings for tombs and temples. Europeans, by contrast, saw gold as a commodity – the ultimate symbol of wealth. For decades, Europeans searched in vain for El Dorado, the legendary Golden One. Although many golden treasures were melted down for bullion, magnificent works of art are preserved in the museums of Peru and Colombia.

Our speaker, Chloe, is a freelance specialist in the art and culture of Latin America. She has lectured internationally and curated exhibitions, whilst also assisting on TV documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4. She is Research Associate in the Department of World Cultures at the Royal Ontario Museum and in 2016 she was awarded the prestigious Ohtli medal by the Mexican government for her long-standing commitment to Mexican culture.

We meet at Lechlade Memorial Hall BUT please register first at www.info@tasupperthames.org.uk

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 or visit www.highworthlink.co.uk

Calling All Artists



Karis Rose at The Barn

Online registration for Swindon Open Studios is now open for artists to participate in this year's event.

The annual showcase is celebrating 20 years since it began and welcomes new artists to join them each year, with well over 100 artists participating in 2023. The event itself will be taking place over the weekends of **21 to 22 September** and **28 to 29 September**, when artists will open their studios, homes and exhibition spaces, giving visitors a chance to meet the artist and

to see where and how their art is made.

Karis Rose, who first participated in 2022, said, "I couldn't recommend SOS enough for all artists no matter what level you are at, whether it be a full-time job, side hustle or hobby... I owe Swindon Open Studios a lot as I wouldn't be where I am now without them and I made friends along the way."

If you're an artist and want to know if Swindon Open Studios is for you, join us for an informal Q&A session at 7pm on **Thursday 2 May** at Swindon Rugby Club, where the committee will take some of the mystery out of how it all works. There is no need to book, just come along.

There is lots of helpful information on the Swindon Open Studios website including blogs from artists, such as Karis, who have participated, a list of venues if artists are unable to open their own studio or home, and a newsletter sign-up to ensure you receive all the latest information.

Applications are welcomed from visual artists aged 18+ living or working within a 15-mile radius of Swindon. **Registration closes at midnight on Friday 31 May.**

For more information head over to www.swindonopenstudios.org

Another Success for Lechlade Art Society

Last year we experimented with a pop up sale and, despite this being two days before Christmas, it was quite successful.

A second sale was arranged for Saturday 30 March where 17 members of Lechlade Art Society set up tables and easels in Lechlade Pavilion and were ready to receive the first visitors at 10am. A steady stream kept the place buzzing and compliments came thick and fast. Several sales were made and greetings cards proved very popular once more.

Everyone kept saying that we have a high standard and lots of talent, with many enjoying the event as an exhibition as well as an opportunity to buy. Hopefully they will come back for more for our real exhibition in August.

Take a look at our online gallery at www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk.



Pop Up Sale

Exciting New Jazz Festival in Highworth

It is exciting to announce Highworth's first Jazz Festival which will take place on 1 June in five town venues: The Highworth, St. Michael's Church, the United Reform Church, The Wine Bar, and the Podium.

We understand that you may not all be jazz lovers. However, we hope that this festival will really entertain you and help to change your minds a little! We have managed to sign up a wide range of top-class musicians. There will be vocalists and all sorts of performers including pianists, guitarists, incredible saxophonists and many, many more musicians performing original songs, jazz standards and other well-known songs. Think of George Benson, Nat King Cole, and great Big Band sounds. There really is something for everyone.

Events on the Podium are free to listen to and open to everyone who lives in and around Highworth. We hope the festival will bring new people (and revenue)



into our beautiful town, promote great live music and offer a platform for musicians to perform upon. The festival is not-for-profit, with all the proceeds going to set up and run the event.

We are also looking for people who are interested in volunteering to help as a 'Festival Maker' on the day: Guiding festival goers; checking wrist bands for entry to the four indoor locations; and generally spreading some of the great Highworth cheer. Interested? Please contact us using

the email address below. All Festival Makers will receive a free Jazz Festival t-shirt!

There are only 350 tickets available in total and these are selling fast. For more information and to buy your tickets go to our website or email us.

E: organisers@highworthjazzfestival.com

W: www.highworthjazzfestival.com

News from Highworth Camera Club

For the club's March meeting we welcomed two members of Cirencester Camera Club to judge images that members had submitted for our monthly print competitions.

Our visitors gave us useful feedback and selected their winners. The competitions that the club runs for members through the year are a 'set subject' and 'open category'; so far for our set subject category, we have had 'Looking Out or In' and 'Transport'. The subject can be interpreted however the photographer wishes and, along with the open category, this gives lots of scope for different perspectives. There is also a monthly digital competition and February's winner was Margaret Andrews with her image 'Fingers'.

David Rutter came to our April

meeting to talk about his photography. David is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society with wide photographic experience. This month we will be looking into black and white photography, how to

adjust cameras to take BW images, and how to process them. And in June, the camera club is joining forces with Highworth Artists' Society for the Highworth Arts and Literature Festival – we look forward to seeing you there.

If you are a keen photographer, would like help, or to share your experience and your images, do come and join us. We meet every second Tuesday of the month at Highworth Community Hall, The Dormers, at 7:30pm. Do have a look at the club's website.

Hilary Beach

W: www.highworthcameraclub.com



Fingers by Margaret Andrews

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The Holidays of May

Happy May everyone. As you know summer is just around the corner, but before summer we have May Day. Have you ever thought about where May Day has come from and why we celebrate it?

First of all, it's not to be confused with the use of 'mayday' when lost at sea! This is an anglicised version of the French phrase m'aidez, which means 'help me'. May Day has been celebrated for centuries and in the UK it probably makes you think of fayres and dancing around the maypole. The celebration is to say goodbye to spring and welcome summer and this year it falls on the fourth of the month (always the first Monday) – this just so happens to be Star Wars Day as well. The reference to Star Wars Day is because May the Fourth sounds a bit like, "May the Force (be with you)!"

There are other holidays that use a twist on a date to create a special event. There is Pi Day on March 14 (3.14 being the first few numbers of pi) and many people use this as an excuse to eat pie! There is also March 10 that can be read as Mar 10 – that's Super Mario Day!

However you choose to celebrate May Day this year, I hope you have a great time. Maybe I'll see you at the Highworth Fayre in the Market Square.

Have fun and see you next month.

Constance Davenport

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Bored

I was bored,
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So I didn't play.

I was bored,
I didn't know what to do,
I went outside,
I saw my mum,
She was cutting the grass,
I wanted to do that,
She said no.

I was bored,
I didn't know what to do,
I went to my bedroom,
I decided to draw,
I didn't know what to draw,
So I gave up.

I was bored,
I didn't know what to do,
I saw a lovely bit of grass,
It was in the sun
So I laid there,
It was nice,
It was warm,
I was thinking,
It's ok to be bored sometimes,
So...
I was bored.

Sophie Nolan

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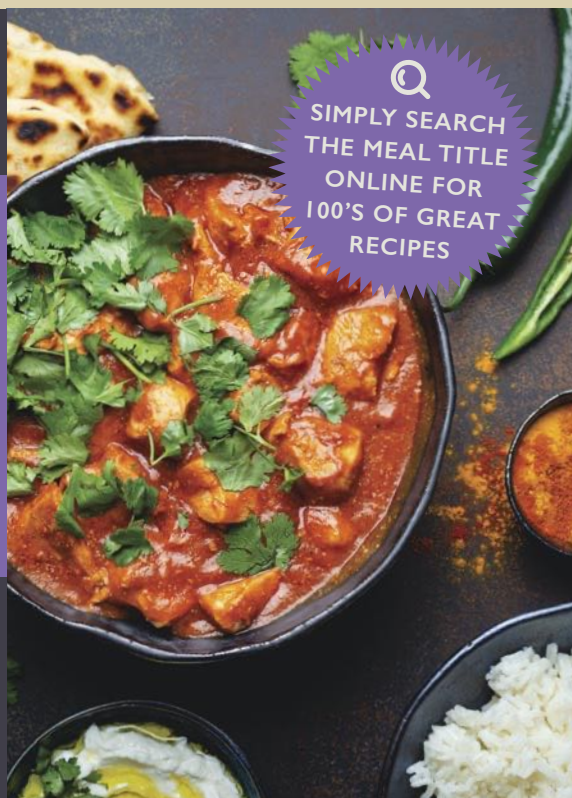
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Shrivenham Park Golf Club

At the end of March the new Captains, Danny Spicer and Carole Lee, swung into action at SPGC and began their year in office. Their chosen charity this year is the Pennyhooks Learning Centre run by Lydia Otter on Pennyhooks Farm. How wonderful that Lydia was knighted recently for her amazing work!

There were lots of teams playing in the inaugural event and the winners in the Florida Texas game were S Durham, N Bugden, R Edmunds and N New, scoring 51.3 to take the win ahead of L Hullins, D Hutton, L Spalding and T White occupying the runners-up position on 53.1. Thanks to Paul Shurmer and Ady Betterton for their sterling work staging it for the Captains and we wish the new Captains every success in their year ahead.

The season feels well and truly underway.

Over the Easter bank holiday a USA Greensome competition took place (results to follow). The Juniors are working hard in their programme under the tutelage of Jim (supported by Paul and Carole), the Social Putters have reverted to their afternoon sessions (2pm to 4pm) and the Scything Group and Parkies Pals continue to meet. (Parkies Pals meetings are now held on the **first Tuesday of each month**, 10am to 12pm to avoid bank holidays).

By the time this is printed we will also have entertained the Twelve Oaks Golfing Society (TOGS) in their first meeting of the year and on 4 June the 'US Kids Golf' are holding their meeting for Juniors on our course; new youngsters are always welcome.

We're introducing Monday Golf Ladies to our programme this year with the aim of

bringing more ladies to our course (our own ladies are, of course, welcome). As with our Juniors, members or visitors playing a full round will be given priority and allowed to 'play through' if needed. Meeting at 11am, nine holes will be played on Holes 10 to 18 at a price of £10, including a round of sandwiches. With two dates per month up until September, the next few are **8 and 22 April**, and **13 and 20 May**.

We welcome everyone who has an interest in golf. Please do get in contact for any information on the above and don't forget that Sunday lunches at the club are amazing!

Carole Lee
T: 01793 783 853
M: 07467 657 964

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

Junior Open **Thursday 22nd August**

Entry fee **£10** 18 Holes / **£5** 9 Holes (payable on the day)

Boys and Girls

All Juniors welcome up to age 18 (1st Sept 2024)

First tee time expected to be 12 noon.
(Times will be advised by text)

18 Holes handicap index – par competition
(Handicap 2 categories depending on players entered, you will be advised before the day)

9 Holes - Sixes Stableford scoring (holes 10 to 18)
(Non-handicap index-par players also less experienced players)

Prizes

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Enter by contacting
Junior Organiser, Carole Lee on 07467 657 964

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Highworth Town Football Club

Following the Easter weekend, HTFC sat in a play-off position after scoring two goals very late in added time to beat Westfields 2-1 on Good Friday and grab three points. With five games in 12 days plus a cup tie, it was always going to be tough but hopes remained high.

Whatever the results in the weeks between then and now, the club have recovered brilliantly from the trials and tribulations of last season thanks to the management team, players, supporters, volunteers, and the hard working committee.

Come along or find and follow us on social media.

Derek Lloyd
W: www.pitchero.com/clubs/highworthtown

Wrag Barn Golf Club

An unsettled Easter weather forecast didn't stop play for the Ladies' Easter Waltz on 26 March and for once the sun was shining. We welcomed a group of 72 visitors from surrounding clubs to play in a fun competition and enjoy a delicious lunch in our newly refurbished rooms. Naturally the prizes were Easter eggs, and the competition was won by a team from the Kendleshire Golf Club. Congratulations to the committee who ran the day and provided beautiful raffle prizes and flowers, not forgetting our awesome team who always go the extra mile to ensure that everyone has a good time. The summer season officially started on 1 April and we have a packed calendar of competitions and social events for members and visitors. To find out more, please visit our website or drop in for a coffee and ask a member of staff for more information.

Verity Manners

W: www.wragbarn.com



Easter celebrations at Wrag Barn

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

The friendly Highworth Ladies' team are always looking for new players to come and join them on **Monday evenings** at New College Swindon, 8:30pm to 9:30pm. If you are over-35 and want to get some exercise in a fun team environment, why not come along and join us? For more information, please contact us or just come and see us.

If you are interested in playing competitive or social walking football, there are men's sessions held on Thursdays and Sundays, 11am to 12 noon, both at Grange Leisure in Stratton as well as a Friday session,

11:30am to 12:30pm, held indoors at The Rec in Highworth. We are always looking for new players to come and join our friendly recreational sessions.

All sessions are 'pay & play' meaning men over the age of 50 and ladies over the age of 35 are welcome to come and play – £4 payment per Thursday and Sunday session, and £3.20 per Friday session. Ladies' Monday sessions are £3 per session. All are payable by credit/debit card only, no cash, direct to the sports centre. For more information please do get in touch.

Graham Seeley

T: 07769 703702

E: highworthwfc@outlook.com



Fancy a kick-about?

Highworth Bowls Club

HBC is a mixed lawn bowling club, established in 1936. Located on the Swindon Road as you enter Highworth from Swindon, our six-rink green is one of the best in the area and our roomy clubhouse and bar offer a friendly welcome and excellent facilities for our bowlers, social members and guests. Our bowlers compete in the Bowls Wiltshire and Swindon & District leagues as well as a full programme of internal competitions and friendly matches, where men and women can compete on an equal footing. Lawn Bowls is open to everyone of all ages and abilities, but you don't have to bowl to be a member of Highworth Bowls Club; social membership is available, giving access to the bar and all club social events. New members are always welcome!

We are holding 'Introduction to Bowls' open events on **Saturday 25 May**, 10am to 1pm, and **Sunday 26 May**, 11am to 3pm. Please come along and meet some of our friendly members and try your hand at bowls. Tea, coffee, and bacon rolls will be available on the Saturday with homemade cakes being provided on Sunday. The bar and clubhouse will be open to everyone throughout the weekend. There will be qualified coaches on hand to point



you in the right direction and introduce you to the game. No need to book in advance. Should you be unable to attend the open weekend, you're most welcome to come along to the club and take a look around at another time. During the summer, you'll find the club in use most evenings, Friday, and weekend afternoons. We have plenty of seating around the green for spectators, and what could be more relaxing on a warm summer's afternoon than watching a game of bowls?

For more information, please contact our membership secretary, Christine Biles, or visit our website.

Kevin Brown

E: christine.biles@btinternet.com

W: www.highworthbowlsclub.org

Halo Swim School at Highworth Recreation Centre

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OUR REPRESENTATIVE

News from Justin Tomlinson MP

I was very sad to see Chris and Heather announce their well-earned retirement from the Highworth market after 38 years of running their popular fruit and veg stall. As a regular customer it was a real pleasure getting to know them. They were always beavering away with a smile, despite their extraordinarily early starts, and they will certainly be missed!

In April, I was delighted to meet with Mike Harrison to discuss the innovative work he has been doing to support young people at risk of joining gangs/committing knife crimes. Mike, an armed forces veteran, has great insight and firsthand experience of educating those most at risk and he is hoping to offer his supportive schemes to local schools (www.greentreesforestschoools.co.uk), something I have been happy to assist with through introductions. Whilst the government and police have been cracking down on this menace, I have long been pushing for more constructive activities to keep young people engaged. It is clear the greater opportunities that young people have, the less likely they will drift towards gangs or anti-social behaviour.

On local issues, I continue to press for a decision from Swindon Borough Council regarding the future of the former Highworth Golf Course. Working with the fantastic Save Highworth Golf Course volunteers, your borough councillors and Highworth Town Council, we are united in pressing for this becoming a community asset. The delays, broken promises and meetings behind closed doors are unacceptable. Highworth is already seeing over 1,000 new homes over five years – it is only fair that this is offset by protecting this vital community green space.

Finally, I was delighted to welcome students from Warneford School to my community office for the first round of work experience weeks. Every year I welcome a huge mixture of students from different schools, and it is always interesting to bring them together and hear their different views and opinions – we certainly have some lively debates! We are always looking for students aged 14 to 15 who have a passion for politics and would like to join in, so please get in touch if this is you or someone you know.

Justin Tomlinson MP
E: justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk



Mike Harrison and Justin Tomlinson

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WHERE AND WHEN CAN I GO TO VIEW THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2?

Highworth Town Council will be holding face to face public events in order for you to ask questions and for you to provide your invaluable feedback.

Public consultations will take place in the Highworth Town Council community room, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth on the following dates:

Saturday 11th May. 9am until 2pm / Thursday 16th May. 6pm until 9pm
Saturday 15th June. 9am until 2pm / Thursday 20th June. 6pm until 9pm

HOW TO VIEW THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2 IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A CONSULTATION

You can go online by visiting the Highworth Town Council website at www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Alternatively you can view the Neighbourhood Plan 2 documents at the locations below:

Highworth Town Council Offices, 3 Gilberts Lane, Highworth.

The Highworth Visitor Centre, 7 High Street, Highworth.

Highworth Library, Brewery Street, Highworth.

Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers, Highworth.



HIGHWORTH
Carnival May Day
SATURDAY 4TH MAY 2024
10AM TILL 4PM

Here is just a little taster of what the day holds!!

Church bells from 9:30am
Official Opening by The Mayor
Elias Performing Arts
Noisy Oyster (street entertainer)
Morris Men
Jack in the Green & Dancing around the Maypole
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Morris Men

We also have over 60 independent stalls, licensed bar, food outlets, farm animals, balloon artist, stilt walkers, face painting and live music.
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11AM TO 2PM



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WWW.HIGHWORTHTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

News from Highworth's Mayor



I recently gave the town's best wishes to Chris and Heather on their retirement. They had the vegetable stall at Highworth's Saturday market for 38 years.

I reflected on this achievement and realised many people had also had

jobs for 38 years. I asked myself, "What is different? Did I get up at a ridiculously early hour, drive my van to the market place, unload my office or my workshop, construct it, fill it with produce, all by eight o'clock in the morning? Did I then stand for six or more hours serving customers in all weathers? And when trading finished, did I put my unsold stock back in the van, deconstruct my office or my workshop, load it on the van and drive home, knowing that I was going to repeat it the next day and the next for 38 years?! Of course not!

Chris and Heather deserved the best send off into their retirement we could offer. It was a pleasure to see so many loyal customers present and Chris and Heather spoke to each of them. The traders and customers had jointly raised a princely sum for a gift, presenting them with two matching garden ornaments of wading birds – I presume they were herons (my ornithological skills are sadly lacking), but I am sure there were no egrets. They also received cash to buy a luxury item of their own choosing. Their thanks to all were truly heartfelt.

I know regular Saturday shoppers will miss them a great deal. I think they were actually an institution in themselves and will be long-remembered. Also, many of our young people will remember them for giving them their first Saturday job, working outdoors on their stall and in all weathers.

Thank you Chris and Heather for your 38 years of loyal service. Three cheers indeed!

Keith Smith, Mayor

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN

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07836 382827 keith.smith@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

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St. Michael's Church Highworth

The church is open daily for private prayer.

10:15am Sunday Service

We meet in church and stream live at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or on YouTube by searching St. Michael's Church Highworth.

Morning Worship is held on the **first, third and fifth Sundays of the month**. Holy Communion is held on the **second and fourth Sundays of the month**.

8:45am Holy Communion

On the **first Sunday of the month**.

10:15am Midweek Communion

On the **third Wednesday of each month**, from 11am. Coffee and cake will be served from 10:15am.

Prayers

Tuesday Prayers from 9am.

Friday Blessings from 9:15am.

The second and fourth Mondays sees Prayer Hour in the Church Room at the new time of 7.30pm.

Special Services

9 May, Ascension Day Service, at 7:30pm.

We remember those who love and miss

Janet Kinch Gordon Charles Ockwell
David Williams William Gardner

We welcome in Holy Baptism

Evelyn Kinnear

Praying for the roads in the town

05 May The Green and Grove Hill.

12 May Grove Orchard and Hammond Close (includes Cobbett Court and Styles Court).

19 May Hampton and Hanover House.

26 May Highworth's schools: for all who work or attend Blackworth Industrial Estate: for all who work there.

St. Leonard's Parish Church Stanton Fitzwarren

Sunday 5 May Morning Praise, 9:30am.

Sunday 12 May Family Service, Pentecost, 11am.

Sunday 19 May Team Service at St Margaret's Stratton, 10am.

Sunday 26 May Holy Communion, 9:30am.

Stanton Coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 14 May** at Stanton House Hotel. We will meet at 10:30am for coffee and a chat before hearing from our speaker, Rachael Laing Smith, editor of the Highworth Link magazine, at 11am, and we usually finish by 12 noon.

The church building will be open every Wednesday in school term time from 10am to 4pm, or you can 'phone Liz and Roger on 01793 762935 to organise for the building to be left open for you to visit safely.

There may be changes to this schedule. Please go to www.stantonchurch.info for updates.



With thanks to all those who have sponsored the floodlighting of St. Michael's Church



25/4/2024

Frank Dean – Remembering and missing a dearly loved husband, Dad, Gramp and Great Gramp. Jean, Beverley, Sharon and families.

21/5/2024

In loving memory of Eric Craigie. Sadly missed by Joan, Emma, Kate and all your family.

Floodlighting forms are available from St. Michael's Church office, Vicarage Lane, or the Church website at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/floodlighting. Your dedication will appear in this magazine.

All submissions to the Church Office by Friday 25 April for the June 2024 publication.

E: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk • www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk



Highworth Twinning Association

Date for your diary!
Safari Lunch

June 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Details to follow...Details to follow..



IN AID OF THE SWINDON DOWN'S SYNDROME GROUP
 HELPING OUR MEMBERS WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME TO LEAD FULFILLING LIVES



SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2024 from 10am

HIGHWORTH RECREATION CENTRE
 THE ELMS, HIGHWORTH, SN6 7DD

A Charity Swimathon promoted especially for the entrants to raise funds for a club, organisation or charity of their choice



For further information, entry forms and sponsorship forms visit www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk and go to the SWIMATHON page or phone 07710 228697 or email rotaryswindonnorth@gmail.com



WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO SPECSAVERS (SWINDON) FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ROTARY SWIMATHON 2024

Highworth Methodist Church



What's on in May?

Our Motto for 2024
 And now these three remain:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE
 But the greatest of these is
LOVE
 1 Corinthians 13:13

Every Saturday
Coffee Morning
 10.30 – 12 noon
 Coffee and cake



Sunday Morning Worship @ 10.30am
 5th Rev Joseph Ribeiro
 12th United Service @ St Michael's 10.15am
 19th Robin Phoenix-Stone
 26th Rev Clive Deverell
 (Circuit Service)

Tuesday Afternoon Communion 7th@2pm

Refreshments served

Every Friday
 9.30-11.15 am

Jesús and M. CLUB



Craft Group

Tuesday, 7th & 21st
 10am-1pm



Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7DG
 Tel: 01793 764544
 Website:
www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/HighworthMethodistChurch

3Cs – Coffee, cake & chat

Wednesday, 8th
 2.30pm



USEFUL CONTACTS

LOCAL CONTACTS

EMERGENCY

Police, Fire, Ambulance	Emergency 999
Gas	Emergency 0800 111999
Electricity	Emergency 105
Water	Emergency 0800 3169 800

NON-EMERGENCY

Police	Non-Emergency 101
NHS	Non-Emergency 111
Pest Control	Non-Emergency 07789 781151

BUSES

Stagecoach Swindon	01793 521415
Thamesdown Transport	01793 428400
Dial-a-Ride	01793 616050
Community Transport	01793 617828
Traveline	0871 200 2233

COLLEGES

Cirencester College	01285 640994
New College Swindon Queens Road Campus	01793 611470
Swindon College Campus	01793 491591

LAW & ORDER

Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Victim Supportline	0808 16 89 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2030

COUNCILS

Highworth Town Council	01793 762377
Swindon Borough Council	01793 463000
Streetsmart	01793 445501

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

Highworth Surgery	01793 762218
Elm Tree Surgery, (Shrivenham)	01793 782207
Great Western Hospital	01793 604020

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

Highworth Pharmacy	01793 762220
Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392
Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

Eastrop Nursery	01793 763772
Westrop Nursery	01793 762897
Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268
South Marston Pre-school	01793 823379

SCHOOLS

Eastrop Infants	01793 763772
Southfield Junior	01793 762210
Westrop Primary	01793 762897
Warneford Secondary	01793 762426

TAXIS

Veezu	01793 701701
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TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Disabled and Assisted Travel	08001 971329

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
Pest Control	08000 988652
Samaritans	01793 537373
Women's Refuge	01793 610610

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Opinions expressed or implied in any contributions are not necessarily those of the editor or management committee.

No responsibility can be accepted for any error of fact in the magazine or website. Please inform the editor of any errors so they can be rectified.

Contributions:

May be published in the magazine and/or the web. Make clear any limitations you have about what, how and when we may publish your contribution.

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Bridge Centre.

Make sure you are writing for a general audience, not just your own organisation. News stories should not exceed 150 words. If it's too long we will ask you to cut it. Articles

may be longer but get in touch first to save the annoyance of a rejection. Photographs and advertising artwork should be clear, with good contrast. JPEG electronic format is preferred. The print process requires images ideally to be 300dpi for best results, low resolution images, that appear clear on screen, will print blurred depending on the size and resolution of the image supplied.

Make sure any people in photos agree that the photo can be published in the magazine and web. Get parental consent in the case of minors.

We reserve the right to edit contributions and to not publish any contribution or advertisement that is either unsuitable for our format or is inconsistent with our editorial policy.

Submission Deadlines:

1st of the month before publication – news, articles, advertising and letters.

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www.highworthlink.co.uk/2020-magazines-2/

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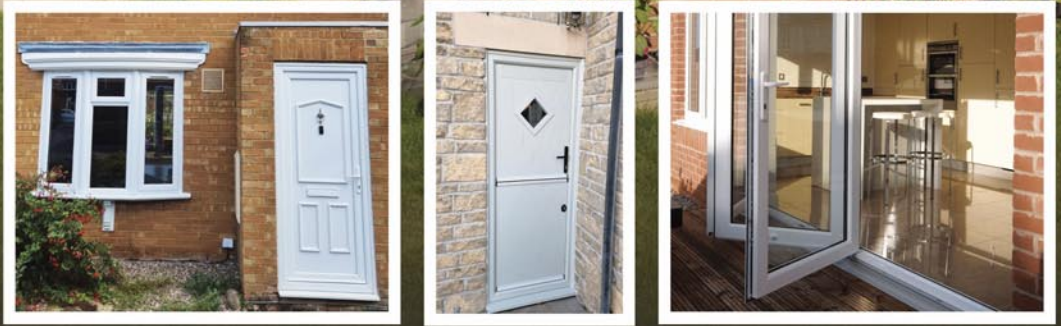
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